

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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/067 W

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R 251005Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5027

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 1165: N/A

TAGS: AORG EAGR UN FAO ID

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE--INDONESIAN VIEWS

REF: STATE 136529

1. SUMMARY: INDONESIA OFFICIALS APPROACH WFC UNSURE OF WHAT IT WILL CONTRIBUTE, HET HOPEFUL IT WILL SOMEHOW IMPART GREATER MOMENTUM TO RESOLUTION OF OBVIOUS FOOD NEEDS. WHILE POLITICALLY GOI CANNOT ISOLATE ITSELF FROM GROUP OF 77, IT APPROACHES CONFERENCE WITH ESSENTIALLY NEUTRAL ATTITUDES. WITH MODERATE DEPENDENCE ON FOOD IMPORTS AND ONLY SLIGHT POTENTIAL FOR PERIODIC PARTICIPATION (I.E., WHEN STOCKS PERMIT) IN SUPPLY OF RELIEF FOODSTUFFS TO OTHERS, INDONESIA WILL BE A LISTENER, NOT A LEADER, BUT AS MODERATE LDC, IT MIGHT BE PERSUADED SUPPORT US POSITIONS, WITH SOME ADVANCED
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ENCOURAGEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING EXTENDED ABSENCE ABROAD, SENIOR MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOI PARTICIPATION IN WFC PROVIDED FOLLOWING APPRAISAL OF GOI VIEWS ON WFC:

3. BASICALLY GOI IS UNDURE WHAT WFC INTENDS TO ACCOMPLISH. IN REVIEWING WHAT THEY KNOW OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FROM THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING, THEY FIND NOTHING WHICH APPERAS NEW OR GOES BEYOND ISSUES OR POSITIONS DEVELOPED BY FAO EFFORTS. GOI HOPES WFC MIGHT IMPART GREATER MOMENTUM TO PRESENT DIRECTIONS AND EFFORTS IN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, BUT FINDS NOTHING IN DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE HOPES.

4. WHILE AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE TO PROPOSAL OF WFC SYG FOR A WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY, GOI OPPOSES PARKINSONIAN PROLIFERATION OF INERNARTIONAL BUREACUCRACY. ANY WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY SHOULD SERVE ONOY AS COORDINATOR, WITH BASIC WORK CONTINUED BY EXISTING BODIES SUCH AS FAO, IBRD, ETC. MFA KEENLY INTERESTED IN USG POSITION ON THIS PROPOSAL AND ON ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS THAT PUT FORWARD BY FRG.

5. ON MAIN SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS, INDONESIA PREOCCUPIED WITH NATIONAL GOALS. GOI APPROACHES WFC AS INTERESTED NATIONAL OBSERVER NOT AS PROSPECTIVE LEADER AMONG LDCS. IN LINE WITH NATIONAL GOAL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD, GOI NATURAL INTEREST TO ACCELERATE PRODUCTION, TO IMPROVE AID AND ASSURE AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL AG INPUTS. CONSISTENT WITH LONG-ESTABLISHED NATIONAL STOCK PROGRAM OF ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS, GOI ALSO SUPPORTS IMPROVED COORDINATION OF NATIONAL STOCK PROGRAMS AND INCREASED WORLD CAPABILITIES FOR DISASTER RELIEF. MFA SUBSCRIBES TO PROPOSITION OF WFC SYG THAT FINANCING FOR INCREASED PROGRAMS OF PRODUCTION, AID AND STOCKS SHOULD BE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY OF DEVELOPED AND "NEWLY-RICH" COUNTRIES. GOI OPTS OUT OF LATTER CATEGORY ON PER CAPITA BASIS BUT ACKNOWLEDGES ITS POTENTIAL FOR PERIODIC PARTICIPATION IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHEN ITS STOCKS PERMIT. INDONESIA ONLY MODERATELY DEPENDENT ON FOOD IMPORTS AND ONLY SLIGHTLY ON FOOD EXPORTS. CORRESPONDINGLY, INDONESIA IS MODERATE AMONG LDCS BUT IT ALSO FEELS COMPELLED POLITICALLY TO ALIGN WITH GROUP OF 77 ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

6. DOMINANT THEME OF MFA OFFICIALS WAS CONCERN WITH WHAT US POSITIONS AT CONFERENCE WOULD BE. SPECIFICALLY MFA

ASKS IF US PROPOSALS ENVISAGE EFFORTS EXCEEDING THOSE NOW CONTEMPLATED BY FAO AND RELATED AGENCIES, OR ARE INTENDED PRIMARILY TO ENDORSE AND GIVE WEIGHT AND MOMENTUM TO WHAT IS ALREADY UNDER WAY. MFA OFFICIALS EXPRESSED STRONG GOI AMBIVALENCE TOWARD WFC, SAYING "WE DON'T YET SEE USE OF ATTENDING, BUT CAN'T RISK BEING ABSENT." GOI MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAS ALSO MADE VIRTUALLY SAME STATEMENT. REFERRING TO DRAFT US AGENCY PAPER OBTAINED IN US, WHICH INCLUDED INDONESIA IN LIST OF SOME DOZEN COUNTRIES CONSIDERED "ESSENTIAL" OR/AND "MOST DESIRABLE" KEY DECISION MAKERS IN FOOD STOCK ISSUE, MFA OFFICIAL HUMOROUSLY STATED IN THIS INSTANCE INDONESIA PREFERS TO BE CATEGORIZED AS "LESS DESIRABLE"--LEST IT BE TASKED WITH ADDED FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR ANY DECISIONS REACHED.

7. ECON COUNSELOR STRESSED THAT IMPORTANCE IN WORLD PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND IMPORT EXPLAINS INCLUSION OF INDIA, INDONESIA, OTHER LDCS. ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO BROADENING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AT WFC ON PRIORITIES FOR MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS TOWARD REMEDY OF MOST PRESSING FOOD PROBLEMS, AS MEANS OF FACILITATING AND ACCELERATING WORK IN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FORA SUCH AS EAO, MTN, ETC. UNFORTUNATELY EXCELLENT SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE PROVIDED USIS WIRELESS FILE OCTOBER 21 FROM INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR EDWARD MARTIN RECEIVED AFTER DISCUSSIONS AT MFA. EMBASSY PROVIDING COPIES THIS INTERVIEW TO MEMBERS OF GOI DELEGATION TO WFC.

8. GIVEN MODERATE, FLEXIBLE INDONESIAN VIEWS WHICH BLEND INTERESTS AS BOTH MAJOR PRODUCER AND CONSUMER, EMBASSY BELIEVES US MIGHT BE ABLE TO GAIN GOI DELEGATION SUPPORT IN KEY AREAS AND POSSIBLY EVEN ITS ASSISTANCE IN LDC CAUCASES. TO DO SO HOWEVER WILL REQUIRE US TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDE GOI DELEGATION SOONEST WITH US PROPOSALS OR LATEST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS WHICH USG BELIEVES MOST CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS OF CONFERENCE. STATEMENTS SHOULD STRESS (1) HOW PROPOSALS WHICH USG SUPPORTS WOULD ADD TO PRESENT DIRECTIONS AND GOALS OF FAO, AND (2) EXTENT TO WHICH WE FORESEE IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH EXISTING AS OPPOSED TO SUPPLEMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MECHANISMS (ALONG LINES OF AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S REMARKS ON FAO FOOD RESERVE PLAN AND SOVIET PARTICIPATION) ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT SUPPLY SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE WE CAN PROVIDE GOI DELEGATION, ESPECIALLY COVERING KEY AREAS WHERE ADDITIONAL LDC SUPPORT MAY BE REQUIRED.

NEWSOM

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